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The Mauricio Gastón Institute  
for Latino Community Development  
and Public Policy

# Latinos in Pawtucket | Rhode Island

by Daniel W. Vasquez, Research Associate

*The Mauricio Gastón Institute of the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts research on and for the Latino population. A goal is to generate the kind of information and analysis necessary to develop sound public policy, and to improve Latino participation in the policy making process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to diverse audiences, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for the states and selected cities of New England, based on the United States Census 2000.*

Census 2000 data include changes in the way people were counted. The most significant change is to allow persons to select more than one race, creating a new multiracial category of “two or more races”, but meaning people may not be included in the race with which they most identify. There was, however, no way to choose more than one ethnicity; one must choose either Latino or not. Throughout this profile, numbers reflect Latinos of all races, or non-Latinos by race, with persons of two or more races counted separately. All categorizations are based solely on self-identification. All of this complicates comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data. However, the concepts are similar enough to make trends and patterns clear.

In Pawtucket, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were (similar to) national and state trends. The population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew at a higher rate than did the population of non-Hispanic Whites (see table 1), which actually shrank. The total population of Pawtucket increased by 0.4%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 4,930 or 94.6%, although African-Americans had a higher percent increase. Latinos now represent 13.9% of the population, an increase of 6.7 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Pawtucket has the second largest population of Latinos in Rhode Island and the 19<sup>th</sup> largest in the New England states. As a percentage of the total population, the Latino population in Pawtucket ranks third in the state.

Table 1

<b>Pawtucket - Growth by Ethnicity</b>							
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>		<b>Change</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>in Percent</b>
Hispanic or Latino	10,141	13.9	5,211	7.2	4,930	94.6	6.7
White	50,436	69.1	62,047	85.4	-11,611	-18.7	-16.3
Black or African American	4,876	6.7	2,330	3.2	2,546	109.3	3.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	151	0.2	153	0.2	-2	-1.3	0.0
Asian <sup>a</sup>	603	0.8	460	0.6	174	37.8	0.2
Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	31	0.0					
Some other race	3,675	5.0	2,443	3.4	1,232	50.4	1.7
Two or more races <sup>b</sup>	6,357	8.7					
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,958</b>		<b>72,644</b>		<b>314</b>	<b>0.4</b>	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Note: Growth figures will not balance due to the new multiracial category.

<sup>a</sup> 'Asian and Pacific Islander' was split for the 2000 census. Growth and changes reflect combined total.

<sup>b</sup> There was no equivalent category in the 1990 census.

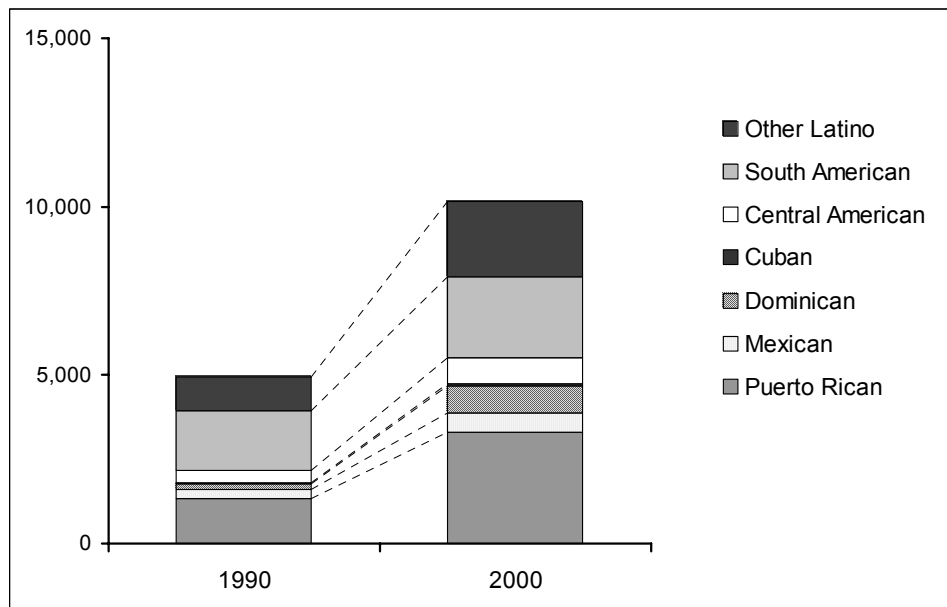
Table 2

<b>Pawtucket - National Origin of Latinos</b>						
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990 <sup>a</sup></b>		<b>Growth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hispanic or Latino	10,141		4,939		5,202	105.3
Mexican	581	5.7	254	5.1	327	128.7
Puerto Rican	3,298	32.5	1,343	27.2	1,955	145.6
Cuban	75	0.7	33	0.7	42	127.3
Dominican Republic	804	7.9	181	3.7	623	344.2
Other Central American	749	7.4	345	7.0	404	117.1
Other South American	2,397	23.6	1,794	36.3	603	33.6
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,237	22.1	989	20.0	1,248	126.2

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(b).

<sup>a</sup> 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1  
Pawtucket - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990<sup>1</sup> and 2000. The largest group in Pawtucket is Puerto Rican, at 32.5%, followed by “Other” South Americans, and “Other” Latinos. “Other” Latinos were among fastest-growing population, growing by 126.2%, a trend seen across the U.S. (see table 2 and figure 1). A person is counted as “Other” if they write in “Spanish” or give an answer that can’t be assigned to a particular nationality (such as “Latino”), or if they identify more than one origin, or leave the answer blank. Future scholarly studies may better describe the composition of this category. The detailed breakdown of Central and South Americans is available at the Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder service, online at: [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov).

Table 3

<b>Pawtucket - Households by Tenure</b>							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	3,071		1,651		1,420	86.0	
Owners	556	18.1	334	20.2	222	66.5	-2.1
Renters	2,515	81.9	1,317	79.8	1,198	91.0	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 81.9% versus 18.1%, and there has been a 2.1% decrease in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). This is much lower than the state average of 60%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 78.8%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 27.9% of Latino-headed households, more than the Rhode Island average of 21.9%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 27.3% of Latino households, which is greater than the state average of 8.6%, and greater than it was in 1990.

Table 4

<b>Pawtucket - Family Structure</b>						
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>	<b>Change</b>
Latino Headed Households	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>in Percent</b>
Families:	2,420	78.8	1,281	77.6	88.9	1.2
with related children <sup>a</sup> :						
Married Couple, with children	857	27.9	524	31.7	63.5	-3.8
Female Head, with children	837	27.3	296	17.9	182.8	9.3
Male Head, with children	166	5.4	71	4.3	133.8	1.1
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	337	11.0	240	14.5	40.4	-3.6
Single, no children	223	7.3	150	9.1	48.7	-1.8
Non-Family Household	651	21.2	370	22.4	75.9	-1.2
Total Households	3,071		1,651		86.0	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

<sup>a</sup> Own or related children under 18 only.

#### Data Sources:

All available at American Fact Finder [online service]: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau:

2000: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100% Data.

1990(a): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) 100% Data.

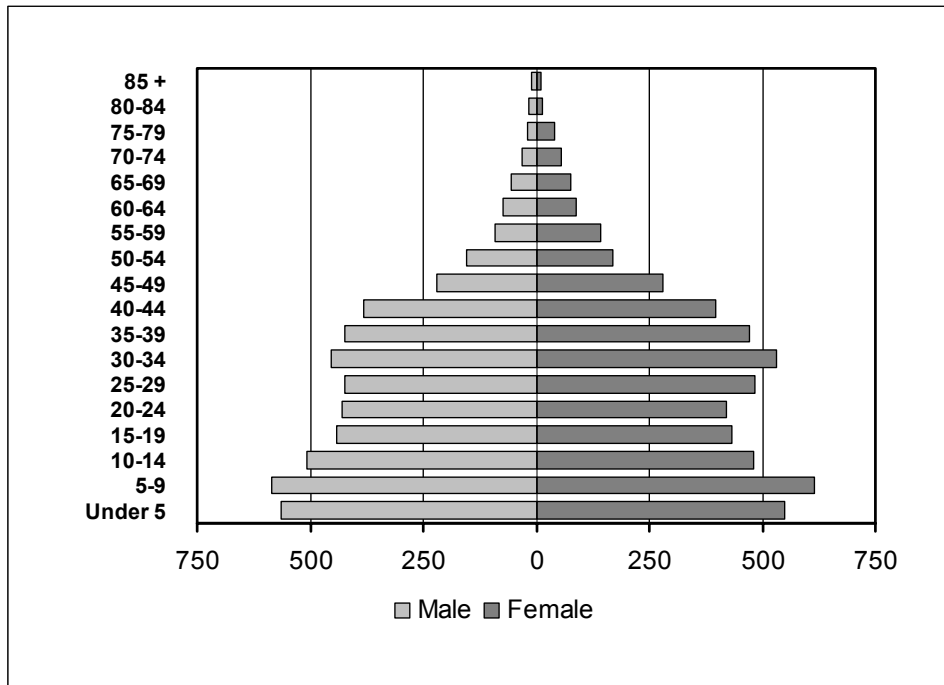
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

1992: 1990 Census of Population: General Population Characteristics. Washington DC: GPO.

#### Notes:

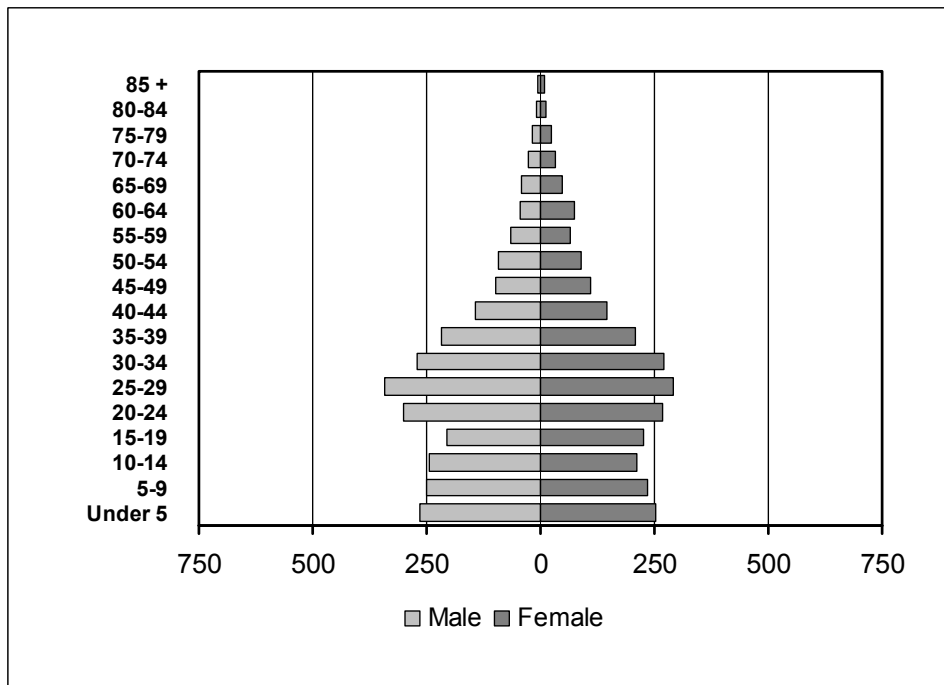
<sup>1</sup> Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2  
Pawtucket - Age Profile 2000



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Figure 3  
Pawtucket - Age Profile 1990



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

The age composition of Latinos in Pawtucket has changed. There has been an increase among all age groups, but especially among those in the middle years. Even though there are many more children, the overall Latino population is maturing (see figures 2 and 3).

While the Latino population in Pawtucket and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 41.2% of Latinos were younger than 20, greater than the 36.2% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 25.2 is much younger than the overall Rhode Island median age of 36.7. Women still tend to be older than men, but the gap closed during the 1990s. In addition to becoming relatively older, both Latinos and Latinas became less concentrated in the 20-29 age group (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 5

<b>Pawtucket - Latinos by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	2,312	22.8	1,003	19.2	130.5
10-19	1,864	18.4	884	17.0	110.9
20-29	1,760	17.4	1,201	23.0	46.5
30-39	1,882	18.6	967	18.6	94.6
40-49	1,278	12.6	496	9.5	157.7
50-59	555	5.5	310	5.9	79.0
60-69	294	2.9	207	4.0	42.0
70 and over	196	1.9	143	2.7	37.1
Total	10,141		5,211		94.6
Median Age	25.2		26.1		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 6

<b>Pawtucket - Latino Males by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	1,149	23.5	517	19.6	122.2
10-19	950	19.4	448	17.0	112.1
20-29	856	17.5	641	24.3	33.5
30-39	880	18.0	488	18.5	80.3
40-49	601	12.3	240	9.1	150.4
50-59	246	5.0	156	5.9	57.7
60-69	128	2.6	86	3.3	48.8
70 and over	77	1.6	61	2.3	26.2
Total	4,887		2,637		85.3
Median Age	24.0		25.7		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 7

<b>Pawtucket - Latina Females by Age</b>					
	<b>2000</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>Growth</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 10 years	1,163	22.1	486	18.9	139.3
10-19	914	17.4	436	16.9	109.6
20-29	904	17.2	560	21.8	61.4
30-39	1,002	19.1	479	18.6	109.2
40-49	677	12.9	256	9.9	164.5
50-59	309	5.9	154	6.0	100.6
60-69	166	3.2	121	4.7	37.2
70 and over	119	2.3	82	3.2	45.1
Total	5,254		2,574		104.1
Median Age	26.1		26.5		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.